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# The Tech News Volume 33, Issue 32, March 23 1943

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# TECH NEWS

Write Often;  
Keep up the Morale  
of the Girls  
In the Services

Z320

VOL. XXXIII

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, WORCESTER, MASS., TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1943

NO. 32

## Scholastic Average of Students Living in Fraternities Higher Than General Grades

**S.A.E. Leading With 75.15%; A.E.P., T.K.P. Follow With 74.97, 74.42**

The general scholastic average for students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute who belong to fraternities is higher this term than the general college average, reversing the trend of the last several years. According to figures released by Miss Gertrude R. Rugg, registrar of the college, the weighted average of students who are members of one of the nine national fraternities represented at W.P.I. was 73.57% while the general college average was 73.41%. The average of the non-fraternity men which also includes all regular freshmen was 73.26%.

Of the individual fraternities, first rank for the first semester is held by Sigma Alpha Epsilon of 6 Humboldt Ave., with a scholastic average of 75.15%. Alpha Epsilon Pi of 25 Dayton St. is second with 74.97%. Third place is held by Theta Kappa Phi of 26 Institute Road, with an average of 74.42%. Others which are above the general college average are Sigma Phi Epsilon and Alpha Tau Omega.

Among the respective classes, the seniors had the best marks, averaging 77.95% while the juniors averaged 74.21%, sophomores 72.13%, classified freshmen 60.91%, and regular freshmen 71.48%.

## Camera Club Sees Movies of Vacationing

**Club Joins New Eng. Council Camera Clubs; Smith, Talboys Speak**

At a meeting of the Camera Club last Wednesday in the Janet Earle Room, Albert Talboys, '45, showed colored motion pictures of fishing in Canada and vacationing in Florida. The pictures were made two years ago and showed the effects of the cold wave which hit Florida at that time.

Elbridge Smith, '45, spoke on the three fundamental positions of lighting in a discussion of various effects which can be obtained by lighting.

The club has recently joined the New England Council of Camera Clubs. The club is indebted to Miss Allen, the president's secretary, for the use of her own motion picture projector Wednesday evening.

### WEIGHTED AVERAGES First Term 1942-1943

|                     | Per Cent |
|---------------------|----------|
| Alpha Epsilon Pi    | 74.97    |
| Alpha Tau Omega     | 73.96    |
| Lambda Chi Alpha    | 72.58    |
| Phi Gamma Delta     | 71.23    |
| Phi Sigma Kappa     | 72.81    |
| Sigma Alpha Epsilon | 75.15    |
| Sigma Phi Epsilon   | 74.39    |
| Theta Chi           | 72.71    |
| Theta Kappa Phi     | 74.42    |
| All Fraternity      | 73.57    |
| All Non-Fraternity  | 73.26    |
| College             | 73.41    |

NOTE: Regular Freshmen are all Non-Fraternity men for the first term.

## Tech History Starts In This Issue of "News"

**John Boynton Finds Worcester Tech With The Aid of Local Men**

During the next several weeks, the TECH NEWS will bring you installments in the history of the college, with the hope that our readers will realize more clearly the traditions upon which Tech is founded.

### The Real Founder

One afternoon, near the opening of the year 1865, a stoop-shouldered old man drove into the city of Worcester, and hitched his horse in front of a hardware store. There was a look of weariness in his face caused less by the ride from Athol than by an accumulation of years spent in hard work. John Boynton had come to Worcester to lay before his cousin, David Whitcomb, a matter that had overshadowed all other transactions in the city on that day. No record of the conversation exists, yet from subsequent statements made by Whitcomb, it may be assumed that Boynton discussed his circumstances and his desire to dispose of his wealth before he died. He was then seventy-three, and in failing health. His second wife was dead, leaving him childless and with no near relatives.

### John Boynton's Dream

He disclosed to Whitcomb that he had somewhat over one hundred thousand dollars, which he wished to donate for some educational institution that would provide opportunities that both of them had been denied. It was in his mind that a school where young people could receive an education could be estab-

### Felicitations

The splendid basketball season just over did not simply happen.

Unheralded and without any ballyhoo, a Tech team went to work with a will and carried our colors to well-earned victory.

Here's an example to follow for everyone of us on the campus with a job—and that means everybody.

W. T. CLUVERIUS

lished in Mason or Templeton. He had little vision of what the school should be like, but insisted that it should be free.

Whitcomb agreed that this was a very worthy proposal, and accepted trusteeship of the funds until a definite plan could be put into operation. It was decided that the endowment by John Boynton should be reserved for educational purposes and that other donors should be urged to furnish buildings and grounds, preferably in the city of Worcester. So they parted, and so the first stone in the foundation of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute was laid.

David Whitcomb lost no time in developing the Boynton idea. He first consulted with Reverend Seth Sweetser, a highly respected preacher who had been pastor of the Calvinist Church in Worcester for over a quarter of a century. Whitcomb's second consultant was Emory Washburn, professor of Law at Harvard, and former governor of Massachusetts.

### Final Plans

Dr. Sweetser and Governor Washburn began immediately to formulate a plan for the school. To sound out local sentiment on this point, a letter was sent to some thirty influential and wealthy members of the community, informing them of the general proposition. So many favorable responses were received that a meeting was called at which the subject would be more fully presented.

This organization meeting was held on March 27, 1865, in the law office of George F. Hoar. Francis H. Kinnicutt, president of the Citizens Bank, and father of two sons who were to be intimately connected with the Institute, was elected chairman. As has been customary at such meetings before and since, a subscription paper was started immediately, headed by Stephen Salisbury, II, with a pledge of \$5,000 and an offer of about two acres of land at Salisbury and Grove Streets, where the State Armory stands. Nine others placed against their signatures sums ranging from between \$500 and \$2,000. Nearly all of them increased their sums at a later date, except the

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 5)

## Paul K. Petzoldt, Young American Alpinist, Next Assembly Speaker

### Spring Season's Dorm Dances To Start Sat.

**Big Crowd Expected As Boyntonians Plan Added Entertainments**

The first Dorm Dance of the Spring Season will be held March 27, at 8:00 P.M. in Sanford Riley Hall. The Boyntonians under the leadership of Mal Hunt have been practising for several weeks for the big opening night. In addition to improving their rendition of your favorite dance tunes, the boys have planned something of added interest for those attending. The band will put on more of a show, and there will be contests with all couples taking part.

A freshman, Art Starr, has been selected to fill Bill Bennett's position at the keyboard, and Lee Lidofsky has been showing great advances in arranging and playing. The brass section, with Charlie Richardson playing lead trumpet, forms a truly solid little group. Bob Ballard on lead sax has his section upholding Charlie's fine pace. The vocalists, Betty Sprague and Evelyn Estes, have also improved their styles since their last appearance. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Wellman and Mr. and Mrs. Ray C. Boggs will chaperone.

If this dance proves successful, Dorm Dances will be held at regular intervals through the Spring. These dances are for the students, so let's have a big crowd on hand this Saturday—and every other evening that a Dorm Dance is held.

### Cliff Green Provides Organ Music at Last Week's SCA Chapel

**Rev. Oliver Frazer, Who Was Scheduled to Speak Will Preach On March 31**

The ice storm last Wednesday made it impossible for Rev. Oliver M. Frazer to travel across the city to speak at the weekly S.C.A. Chapel service. Except for the address, however, the service took place as usual. Cliff Green provided some excellent pinch-hitting with fifteen minutes of organ music. Playing three chorale preludes by Bach, Cliff added much to the enjoyment of his program by explaining the origin and characteristics of each selection.

### Lecture Entitled "Five Miles High" To Be Illustrated

Paul K. Petzoldt, intrepid young American Alpinist, will speak to the student body of Worcester Polytechnic Institute at the monthly assembly next Wednesday at 11:25 a.m. in Alden Memorial Auditorium.

Mr. Petzoldt, who will give an illustrated lecture entitled "Five Miles High" to W.P.I. faculty, students, and friends, is one of the world's greatest mountain climbers and one of the two members of the American Karakoram Expedition of 1938 to scale 26,000 feet up the peak K2 in the Himalayan Mountains. "K2" is the second highest mountain in the world and said to be the most difficult to climb. Mr. Petzoldt considers his climb up the K2 a very thrilling experience, but his actual thoughts at the highest point he reached—less than 2,000 feet from the still unconquered crest—concerned such immediate matters of survival as food, freezing and avoiding avalanches of hurtling ice.

The only expedition to the K2 which got anywhere near as high as the point reached by Petzoldt and Dr. Houston was the ascent of the Duke of Abruzzi in 1909.

For the high altitude climbing Petzoldt and his companions wore two sets of woolen underwear, a flannel shirt, and four Shetland wool sweaters underneath specially made double thickness windproof suits. Over their faces they also wore mufflers and on their hands two pairs each of light wool mittens and ski gauntlets. As for food, the climbers ate plentifully even if on the final climb they were a bit short. A typical breakfast on the march consisted of tea, dried fruit, cereal and eggs. On the mountain itself the eggs and sometimes the fruit were missing. Water would not boil and they had to fall on their prepared rations.

Besides mountain climbing, Mr. Petzoldt likes such sports as football, baseball and golf. He has won several minor golf tournaments and has also won several ski competitions.

Attendance on Wednesday was considered excellent, except for the fact that most of those who came were freshmen; Professor Swan expressed pleasure at the turnout of the '46 men, but asks for more support from the fraternities. A large number of faculty members were present.

Chapel next week will be omitted  
(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

**Dorm Dance - Sanford Riley Hall - Saturday, March 27**



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 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
 Bruce D. Hainsworth

MANAGING EDITOR  
 Robert E. Fay  
 NEWS EDITOR  
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Business: 5-2024

News Phones: 2-0903

Editorial: 4-9203

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## Editorial

### Keep Off the Grass!

What are those craters scattered about the campus? Shell holes? Bomb craters? Is the Axis starting their attack on America in Worcester?

No, the Axis isn't attacking. Those gaping hiatuses in the Tech green(!)sward are merely the result of student mid-March circumambulations. When the snow had gone and the ground was oozing mud, the torrid Techsters just insisted on galloping to and from class across the loose-rooted lawns. Engineers, you know, when not running around in circles (and not the best of circles, at that) are possessed with "Shortdistanceitis". The shortest distance between two points is a straight line and to get from where he is to where he wants to be, a Tech man usually finds that the straight-line route cuts across the lawns.

"That will be all, chentlemen." And whoosh, Kinnicutt Hall vomits freshmen. Its double doors are hardly wide enough to let the whole class through at once, but in a twinkling the lecture hall is as bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard. Once outside, the herd thunders down along the West Street lawns toward the dorm. Compared to the onslaught of the kids of the Class of '46, the Charge of the Light Brigade was a mere field maneuver. Across the quadrangle, in a bee line over—not around—the corner of Alden, straight to the dorm door they fly. The man who designed that door was far-seeing; he must have been an exceptional engineer. The door is of solid oak, which without doubt is the sole reason for its present survival. What is the attraction which weaves such a powerful spell over the freshman class? Can it be the dorm food? (!)

It's the same old story with all the rubbish you see about the campus. Instead of helping to clean up the Woolworthish variety of debris which alighted during the Ice Age, the students, it seems, merrily emptied their wastebaskets out the windows and let the gusty March winds scatter scratch paper all over the campus.

One thing the Tech students can't be blamed for is the sorry state of the plumage of the trees on the campus. It was really Old Man Winter, with a combination of ice, wind and snow, that tore the tops off the campus trees. Apparently Tech men overlooked this opportunity for destruction and Old Man Winter beat them to it—for once. Or maybe the freshmen tried and found that they weren't quite strong enough to snap off the dorm elm at its base!

Littered with debris, lawns cut to shreds, Tech's looks sure will be something to be proud of when visitors come—and soon we will have many visitors—the personnel of the United States Navy, no less.

Are Tech men willfully destructive? We'd like to think that they weren't but the evidence against them gets stronger every day. Don't they realize what W.P.I. spends every year on maintaining the campus; don't they realize what Tech spends every year for landscaping alone?

At last General Winter's campaign is nearing its end. Once again you can see for yourself that Tech has a network of well laid-out sidewalks. Now, more than at any other time of the year, those sidewalks should be used. Why don't *you* use them?

## Fraternity News

### Lambda Chi Alpha

On Friday, March 12, Pi Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha completed its formal initiation of twelve pledges. The new members are: Warren B. Zepp, faculty; Carle Highberg, '44, and the following from the class of '46—Lennart Anderson, Richard Anschutz, Robert Bartlett, Nestor Brown, Bruce Edwards, Allan Johnson, Donald Reed, David Swicker, Roland Ure, and Alfred Wood.

Saturday, March 13, marked the date of the initiation dance given in honor of the new members. About 40 couples attended and the dance was one of the outstanding social events of the chapter this year.

An initiation banquet is planned, and it will be held on April 10, in the Bancroft Hotel.

### Phi Sigma Kappa

At the quarterly elections Phi Sigma Kappa has elected the following officers: President, Donald E. Boser; Vice-president, Gordon L. Sherman; Secretary, Warner C. Sturtevant; Treasurer, Howard E. Swenson; Sentinel, Richard C. Lawton; Sergeant, Roger L. Taylor; and Inductor, Malcolm H. Hunt.

Gordon L. Sherman was elected Vice-president of the alumni association, Kappa Xi Alpha.

### Chapel Service

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 5)

to make room for the monthly assembly. The next service will be on Wednesday, March thirty-first. Barring ice storms, Rev. Frazer will deliver the address which he could not make last Wednesday.

## Speaking of Swing

This fair city has been rather dead musically, as well as otherwise, lately. Johnny Long and Tony Pastor at the Plymouth were the only name bands in town, and while both are pleasing enough as dance bands, neither offer anything special in the line of swing. However, a real musical attraction came to town Monday night, when Hal McIntyre played a dance given by the Norton Company for its employees. McIntyre, since leaving Glenn Miller's reed section has assembled one of the finest white bands in the business. He plays a lot of Ellington stuff, and his record of "The Commando's Serenade" was one of the best of the year. His newest addition is Helen Ward, who has been in retirement for quite some time, having been the featured vocalist with Benny Goodman's first band. Helen was one of the best female vocalists in the business, having a voice, and knowledge of phrasing as well as the usual beautiful face and figure to match. From the way she sounded on an air shot from the Commodore she has lost none of her ability. Hal's band has been tops musically for a long time and the addition of Miss Ward should enhance the band's commercial rating greatly.

Real Jazz is being dispensed regularly in Boston right now. Several

of the Hubs night spots are featuring such attractions as Frankie Newton and Lionel Hampton with jam sessions being held on Sundays. Trumpet player Newton is an old Boston favorite and his men produce an excellent brand of small band jazz. Lionel Hampton achieved fame with Benny Goodman as a featured soloist on vibraphone. In addition to the vibes Lionel plays piano and drums. The band which he has assembled is reputed to be one of the best jump crews to come up in recent years. Featured is Arnett Cobb on tenor and, of course, Lionel himself.

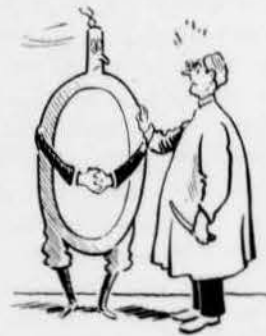
Latest news from the west coast is that Benny Goodman has at last assembled another good band. With Benny at the Palladium are Hymie Schertzer and Jess Stacy who starred in Goodman's earlier bands, and veteran trombonist Miff Mole. It's about time that the King had a good band; an instrumentalist of Benny's caliber deserves something better than the group he has been fronting lately.

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### Notice to All Students

The April issue of *Reader's Digest* is now on sale at the Book Store. Special price to students only is 15 cents.

## G-E Campus News



### PLASTIC SURGERY

**M**ISTER FIVE BY FIVE had nothing on radio antenna enclosures until the "doctors" of the G-E Plastics Laboratory (PhD's, not MD's) went to work on the problem of streamlining. The result was a plastic housing that a plane hardly knows it's carrying.

That's just one wartime activity of the chemists in the Laboratory. They're also concocting plastics for fuse caps on mortar shells and for a vast variety of parts for battleships, tanks, and what-have-you's.

The name "plastics" covers a lot of different materials. These G-E chemists are applying the most precise and ingenious chemical techniques to increase that variety. So, if a special job requires a material with combined properties that no existing material has, they go to work to cook up an entirely new plastic to fill the bill.

The whole story can't begin to be told yet. But when it can, you'll be amazed at how far plastics have gone in wartime, and how many new peacetime jobs they'll be ready to tackle afterward.



### JAP NAP

**O**NE night Hirohito had a nightmare. He dreamt that Shangri Las were springing up all over and planes were swarming over him like flies.

Perhaps that nightmare is nearer reality than his Imperial Nibs knows. For now, in practically no time at all, any open field, even though the ground is soft, can be transformed into a hard runway for American bombers that are starting on their way to make hay of enemy objectives.

To turn the trick, special steel mats are laid along the field. By means of resistance-welding machines, steel bars are automatically stitched together to form these flexible mats. Guided by electronic tubes made by General Electric, every stitch is accurately timed and placed, and the speed far exceeds that of a crew of hand welders.

On some dark night, in a deserted spot, our army engineers will unload these steel mats, joining them into a smooth, solid runway. And presto! Hirohito's nightmare will become a grim reality. General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y.

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**

960-59-211



March 23, 1943



## SPORT SIDELIGHTS

By Bob Pim

The only college that will play baseball in these parts this season will be Worcester Tech. This is perhaps logical in view of the fact that we are affected less by the selective service than the others, so far. There has been nothing said about the future. We are not certain whether the entering Navy men will be allowed to participate in intercollegiate sports or not but in all probability they will be given permission. This may seem a boon to Tech's sports program but undoubtedly we will run into the same trouble that other schools under the same conditions have already run into, that the men going to college under the supervision of one of the services have no time for extra curricular activities. Surely, at this college they will find no more spare time than elsewhere.

Which, if we may digress, brings us to a point that has long been of interest to those connected with this school. To begin with let's look at one fact. In four of the major sports of the Institute the captains have been unable to play due to ineligibility brought about by failure to maintain proper marks. To question the fairness of the ruling is absurd for all colleges have just such a one and it is doubtlessly a good thing. However, if the leaders of our four largest athletic teams cannot make the grade, there is every indication that something is wrong. Perhaps one can chalk it up to coincidence but from this angle it looks stronger than that. The faculty is aware of the situation in many cases and judge the student accordingly, giving a certain amount of leniency wherever

possible. This will doubtlessly be strongly denied on both sides. This is an Engineering school and as all of you know a hard one. The studies come first but we hope not always. A certain amount of relaxation and diversion is essential to good work as everyone knows and our athletic program is supposed to afford us that relaxation. If the going is too tough to do both the studies and the athletics something should be proposed, but certainly not from this corner. You may say that Worcester Tech has existed a long time under just this set of troubles, why should anything be done about it now, why should anyone take it upon himself to make a noise over it at this time. And it is absolutely not our aim to cook up anything in the way of a preventive or reform measure, we merely would attempt to give the athletes side of the picture and show what a tough job it is to wear a gray "W".

### PERCY'S

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## Tech Mermen Show Satisfactory Record Despite No Victories

Russell, Kennedy, Sandberg, Metzger Gain Most Points for College Team

The Tech tank team, although victoryless, turned a fine record for the six meets that were held this season. Exceptional competition was encountered this year by our men, and our opponents set a total of six new records—two of which were New England Intercollegiate records.

Our captain and ace breast stroker, Dick Russell, turned in four wins in the 200-yd. breast stroke. George Kennedy, who did the diving for Tech, won this event once, placed second three times, and third twice. Sandberg had a very successful season with three wins in the 100-yd. free style event, and one victory in the 60-yd. free style event.

The freshman on this year's squad who showed great promise was John Metzger. John placed first in the 150-yd. backstroke swim once, was runner up twice, and number three man twice.

Undoubtedly the best meet of this past season was the one with Boston University on last February 13. The visitors trailed throughout this hotly contested meet until the final event, the 400-yd. relay. The boys from the hub were able to edge us out in this grind, and thereby win the meet by the narrow margin of five points, with the final score being 40-35.

## Geo. Vogel, Former Football, Baseball Star, Aviation Cadet

Receiving Intermediate Flight Training at Naval Station, Pensacola, Fla.

George Vogel, 22, son of Mr. Carl Vogel of 233 N. Park St., East Orange, was recently appointed a Naval Aviation Cadet and was sent to the U. S. Naval Air Training Center, Pensacola, Fla., for intermediate flight training, according to an announcement from the public relations office of that station.

Prior to entering the Naval service, Cadet Vogel studied at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass., and was a member of the varsity football and baseball teams there.

Early in November, he was sent to the U. S. Naval Air Station in Memphis, Tenn., where he successfully completed the elimination training course the middle of this month.

Upon completion of the intensive course at the "Annapolis of the Air," Vogel will receive his Navy "Wings of Gold" with the designation of Naval Aviator, and will be commissioned an Ensign in the Naval Reserve or a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve.

## Theta Chi Holds Lead in Interfraternity Bowling As Season Draws to a Close

### Tech Jayvees Have Showed Good Record

After a Slow Start Team Scores 9 Wins Against 3 Setbacks

After a very slow start last December against Trade School and the Boston University Freshmen, the Tech Jayvees broke into the limelight by pulling in six victories. After that they lost only one game, and that was a thrilling overtime game with South. Thus at the end of the season last week, they produced an impressive record of nine wins and three losses. There is no doubt that their slow start was due to the unfamiliarity of the players. As soon as Coach Don Smith molded them into a working and efficient team and they became acquainted with each other's style of play, nothing could stop them. This team was made of practically all freshmen up to the new semester. Then Phil Sheridan, Paul Kokulis, Frank Baginski and Pat Stowell were added to strengthen the badly depleted team, after Coach Stagg got his eye on Carl Simon, John Concordia, and Al Raymond. Don Smith was given leave of absence at the beginning of the new term and he left his up and coming charges in the care of Arnold Jones, who had just graduated and had played a bang-up game at center this season for the varsity, but nevertheless the junior quintet kept on going, losing only one game of the last six. Al Raymond, the quiet freshman from Delmar, N. Y., and with an eye like an eagle, took individual scoring honors this season with a grand total of eighty-one points. Following him closely with seventy-one and sixty-eight respectively, were Dick Lawton and Bill Carlson. Carl Simon, John Concordia, and Al Raymond were moved up a notch in their basketball careers, when Coach Stagg saw that such material as these boys had, should not be neglected. Carl and John were two important cogs in the Jayvee's defense, always playing a consistent steady game. Whenever the team would show signs of weakening, a word of encouragement and fight from one of them was sufficient to turn the tide.

Thus ends a season of a team that worked together as a unit and not

### A.T.O. and T.K.P. Wage Hot Battle for 2nd Place; Phi Sig, Phi Gam Follow

Again this past week Theta Chi's bowling team kept their record unmarred by defeat. They took Lambda Chi over the hurdles on Thursday with the usual 4-0 shut-out. This match pushed Lambda Chi down from fifth to eighth place. Phi Gam split a 2-2 decision with Sigma Alpha Epsilon to jump up very close to fourth-place Phi Sig who were beaten 3-1 by Alpha Epsilon Pi.

But the position of the four top teams in the league didn't change in spite of the torrid competition. Theta Chi, Alpha Tau Omega, Theta Kappa Phi, and Phi Sigma Kappa are still on top in that order. The records up to March 13 showed the three top bowlers to be Talboys of S.P.E. with a 100.2 average, Mickiewicz of A.T.O. with a 93.1 average, and Bill Bingham of Theta Chi averaging 90.9.

The standings up to March 19 were as follows:

| Team                | Won | Lost |
|---------------------|-----|------|
| Theta Chi           | 20  | 0    |
| Alpha Tau Omega     | 14  | 6    |
| Theta Kappa Phi     | 12  | 8    |
| Phi Sigma Kappa     | 10  | 14   |
| Phi Gamma Delta     | 8   | 12   |
| Alpha Epsilon Pi    | 9   | 15   |
| Sigma Phi Epsilon   | 6   | 10   |
| Lambda Chi Alpha    | 8   | 16   |
| Sigma Alpha Epsilon | 5   | 11   |

as individuals, such as is found in other colleges.

### Scores of the Games

| W.P.I. | 15-34 | Trade           |
|--------|-------|-----------------|
| "      | 27-35 | B.U.            |
| "      | 51-30 | Commerce        |
| "      | 32-24 | St. Peter's     |
| "      | 36-22 | W. Academy      |
| "      | 52-35 | Northeastern U. |
| "      | 44-22 | Classical       |
| "      | 52-36 | W. Academy      |
| "      | 59-40 | Tufts           |
| "      | 50-13 | Clark           |
| "      | 31-33 | South           |
| "      | 60-30 | Holden          |

509-354

### Individual Scoring Honors

|          |    |           |    |
|----------|----|-----------|----|
| Raymond  | 81 | Hathaway  | 22 |
| Lawton   | 71 | Stewart   | 19 |
| Carlson  | 68 | Dember    | 17 |
| Simon    | 59 | Concordia | 15 |
| Sheridan | 49 | Kokulis   | 15 |
| Padden   | 36 | Baginski  | 5  |
| Stowell  | 33 | Krysiak   | 2  |
| Cheney   | 25 |           |    |

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## Tech Washburn Shops Represent Unique Educational Program

**Erected in 1869 by Ichabod Washburn, Institute Co-Founder; Shops Offer Opportunity to Student Engineers For Combining Practice With Theory**

Most of the Institute's undergraduates are fully aware of Tech's academic and technical contributions to the war effort, but few are cognizant of the commercial work being carried on in conjunction with the educational program. Undoubtedly many suffer daily from olfactory disturbances created by the afternoon pourings at the foundry. These are some reminders of the activities conducted in our commercial Washburn Shops.

What are the Washburn Shops? How did they originate? How do they fit into the scheme of Tech's educational program? What work is being carried on there?

The Washburn Shops were named

after Ichabod Washburn, a co-founder of the Institute. In his day Mr. Washburn was one of the leading industrialists and benefactors of the community. He came to Worcester in 1819 and during the succeeding fifteen years built a reputation as a manufacturer, concentrating eventually on wire. By 1865 the I. Washburn and Moen Iron Works had become one of the country's great concerns, destined to later become the nucleus of the American Steel and Wire Company. The normal opportunities for an education had been denied Mr. Washburn. He worked as a blacksmith's apprentice in his early years.

When the early founders met to

decide on an educational pattern for the Institute, Ichabod Washburn thought that a school should be established for instruction in the fundamental principles of mechanics and chemistry. He believed that the plan for the school should go beyond the province of a good theoretical school. His idea was finally accepted in 1866. He purposed to erect a completely equipped machine shop where apprentices were to be employed. Since in 1865 there was no pattern upon which the Worcester plan could be modeled, the idea of combining theoretical and practical training was unique. Worcester was the pioneer in this program, and many technical colleges later copied its example.

The shops were designed and constructed under the supervision of Ichabod Washburn concurrently with the erection of Boynton Hall. The building differed radically from Boynton Hall in order to indicate a different origin and use. The cost of the structure to Mr. Washburn was between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

The shops admitted students for practice work in 1869. One of the first articles chosen for manufacture was an adjustable drawing stand for artists and engineers. These stands were still being manufactured until recently. The shops also produced screw machines, grinders, mandrills, drills, and fixtures.

The Institute accepted all opportunities to display its Washburn wares. The first speed lathes made in the shop were exhibited at the Baltimore Fair in 1869 and won a gold medal.

At the New York Fair in 1870 both the engine and speed lathes were awarded first premiums. To avoid competing with other Worcester manufacturers the shop operators invented a plunger elevator which for years was one of the shop's chief products. The first addition to the shop building was made in 1880. About 33 feet were added at each end of the original building.

We have seen how the Shops have grown from Ichabod Washburn's plan to the present unit. Today the Shops are still a separate entity operated by Worcester Tech and fall under the supervision of the Board of Trustees.

The portion of the building re-

served for student instruction is divided into three sections: wood working, metal working, and aeronautics laboratory. The instruction of students is supervised by the Department of Mechanical Engineering under the direction of Professor Harold W. Dows. Instruction in foundry practice is under the supervision of Mr. Gray, director of the shops.

The Washburn Shops provide an unexcelled opportunity for student engineers to combine practical and theoretical training in the fundamentals of machine construction and industrial shop practice. They are completely equipped with modern machinery, and instruction is carried on strictly in accordance with commercial shop practices.

Mr. Louis W. Rawson, '93, was director of the Washburn Shops until 1933 when he retired. He retained an assignment as consulting engineer however. Mr. Burton L. Gray, instructor since 1910, and superintendent since 1928, succeeded him as director and retains that position today. At present the Shops are engaged in the manufacture of drill grinders and especially engineered Rawson couplings. The Shops' contributions to war work have enhanced their educational features.

The next time you wrinkle your nose in distaste as you pass the foundry, remember that generations of students before you have had exactly the same experience.

### History of Tech

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\$2,000 pledgor who finally contributed nothing.

### Incorporation

Governor Washburn drafted a bill to submit to the Massachusetts General Court and submitted it to the organizers who approved it. The several legal steps necessary to incorporation were not difficult. David Whitcomb signed a covenant with Seth Sweetser and Emory Washburn that in case suitable buildings should be erected for use before May 1, 1867, he would transfer to them the sum of \$100,000 then in his hands.

Emory Washburn's bill to incorporate the Institute was introduced in the legislature on April 26, 1865. It received prompt and favorable action, and was signed by Governor John A. Andrew on May 9. In the meantime the letter of gift and instructions received final polishing and was submitted to the generous and humble donor. He affixed his small firm signature in the presence of David Whitcomb on May 13.

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